Export of Mica and Mica Products

100. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value and weight of mica and mica products exported in the year before and after the decanalisation in 1990;

(b) what are the details of employment in mica industry;

(c) whether there is any improvement after decanalisation as promised; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to review the steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The value and weight of mica and mica products exported in the year before and after the decanalisation of processed mica in October, 1990 are estimated to have been as under:—

	Qty.	Value
	tonnes	crores
Oct' 89-Sept' 90	43515	54·57
Oct' 90-Sept' 91	37138	53·55

(b) Due to decentralised nature of operations in mica industry, details of employment in mica industry are not available.

(c) and (d) Export performance of the mica industry is reviewed periodically.

Increase in the country's exports

101. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the lifting of all trade controls and the introduction of partial convertibility of the rupee far ahead of schedule, it has given a push to exports of the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the exports are likely to be increased;

(c) whether Government also propose to further liberalise the trade policy; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The initiatives taken in the new Import-Export Policy and the introduction of partial convertibility of the rupee are expected to boost India's exports. There is however, a time lag for the new initiatives to have full impact on our exports. It is also difficult to precisely indicate the extent the exports are likely to increase as the level of exports depends on a large number of factors such as global trading environment, economic environment in our partner countries, external demand for products and domestic factors like availability of surplus for exports, agricultural production, industrial production, inflation rate, domestic demand etc.

(c) and (d) Export and Import Policy is under constant review. Necessary changes are made in the policy in public interest as and when the need arises.

Trade between India and Russian Federation

102. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the signing of the protocol no trade has yet been started between India and Russian Federation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Trade under the provisions of the Indo-Russian protocol for 1992

has not yet started, as the inter-banking arrangements are in the process of being put in place. Exports from India to the Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union including to Russia, however, have continued to flow. In order that the two way trade takes place on a sound footing, the Russian Government have been advised to export items listed in the trade protocol to India so as to generate funds for payment of exports to that country on a continuing basis.

Decline in exports to Russian States

103. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's export to Russia and other former USSR states has declined;

(b) what items are to be exported to Russian States during the current year; and

(c) what is the financial arrangement vis-a-vis Ruee Rouble rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been some decline.

(b) The items of export to the Russian Federation during the current year include agricultural products, chemical and allied products, leather & leather manufacturers, textiles etc.

(c) In so far as to the current trade protocol with Russia and other Republics of the erstwhile USSR are concerned, all contracts are to be denominated in freely convertible international currencies. The Rupee-Rouble rate has no relevance in this regard.

Frozen telephone exchanges in Delhi

104. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of telephone exchanges in Delhi which have been frozen and since when each such telephone exchange is lying frozen; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to defreeze these exchanges and by when each of these telephone exchange is likely to be defrozen?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A statement furnishing the required information is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Steps are being taken to defreeze these exchanges during the current financial year progressively subject to availability of material resources particularly exchange equipments.

Statement

Details of Frozen Exchanges as on 31-3-1992

Name of the Exchange	Shift provided upto (Date of Shift applied)	Committed Cases cleared upto (date of registration)
1	2	3
Kidwai Bhawan	1-2-92	7-4-92
Jor Bagh	1-1-92	7-3-92
Lodi Road	30-6-90	30-6-90
Rohini (Sector III)	31-8-89	22-11-91